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## BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2021

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2020



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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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## Conner Training

### Description

The Conner Training appropriation provides training, educational materials, and transition funding to individuals living in the State Resource Centers who wish to move to a home or community-based setting. The Department of Human Services (DHS) contracts with the Center for Excellence at the University of Iowa to administer funds appropriated.

Conner Training provides funding for educational services, including the website [www.disabilitytraining.org](http://www.disabilitytraining.org), the "Let's Talk Disability" blog, the Possibilities newsletter, and a Facebook page. In addition, the appropriation provides a very limited amount of funding to fill in small gaps for people transitioning to a home or community-based setting. Funding is provided to cover such costs as rent, utilities, and other small items during a transition. In FY 2019, funding for transition supported three individuals moving to a community setting, and helped seven individuals remain in their communities. The average cost per person was \$2,516.

### Background

The Conner Training appropriation is the result of a consent decree that originated from a court challenge of Iowa's institutionally based model of services for persons with developmental disabilities. Iowa Protection and Advocacy Services, Inc., filed a class action lawsuit in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Iowa on behalf of Evert Conner and current or future residents of Glenwood or Woodward State Hospital-Schools. The parties entered into a consent decree approved on December 2, 1994. Among the provisions in the decree, the State agreed to provide individualized treatment plans to class members, provide training and employment opportunities, notify individuals if they are eligible to receive community-based services, and develop a five-year plan for creating community support and services. In 1995, the Conner Advisory Committee was convened and created the "Plan for Community Development," the five-year plan called for in the consent decree.

### Funding

The annual General Fund appropriation is approximately \$33,000. In FY 2019, \$25,155 was spent on transition funding for individuals and the remaining funds were spent on education.

### Budget Unit Number

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### More Information

Conner v. Branstad, No. 4-86-CV-30871 (433 S.D. Iowa, July 14, 1994):

[www.clearinghouse.net/detail.php?id=446](http://www.clearinghouse.net/detail.php?id=446)

Department of Human Services: [dhs.iowa.gov](http://dhs.iowa.gov)

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